

Sharon Kay Shiflett, 55

Sharon Kay Shiflett, 55, passed away April 26, 2003, at her home.

She was born Sept. 23, 1947, in Minot, N.D., to Albert and Josephine Heath Jensen.

Sharon graduated from Flathead High School in 1965 and married Keith Shiflett the same year at Calvary Lutheran Church. She worked various jobs, but her last and favorite was at Kalispell Regional Medical Center, where she worked until her early retirement due to a disability. Sharon enjoyed camping, traveling, jigsaw puzzles, and visiting with her many friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, sister Grace Rolene and her husband August, niece Sandra Rolene, father-in-law Keith Shiflett, and two brothers.

Sharon is survived by her husband of 38 years, Keith Shiflett; daughter Shelly and her husband, Courtney Smith, and son Scott Shi-



flett and his wife Kim; sisters DeLoris Glodrey and husband Gary of Sumner, Wash., Darlene Klawitter and her husband Kent of Atwater,

Calif., and Shirley Zimmerman of Kalispell; brothers Wayne Jensen and wife Mary of Tucson and Larry Jensen and wife Carolyn of Ozark, Ala.; mother-in-law Nellie Shiflett; sister-in-law Beverley and Larry Megahey; and grandchildren Jerry and Tony Reynolds; Matthew, Zach, Keith, and Kyle O'Brien; and Amanda and Alicia Shiflett.

Visitation will be held from 5-7 p.m. today at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. on Wednesday at Easthaven Baptist Church. Burial will follow at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery. The family wishes to express a special thank you to Hospice and their wonderful staff. Memorials may be made to Hospice, 175 Commons Loop, suite 100, Kalispell, MT 59901. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

Lenora 'Lee' Mitchell Shouler, 101

Lenora "Lee" Mitchell Shouler, 101, passed away on Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2003, at the Immanuel Lutheran Home in Kalispell.

She was born on Aug. 4, 1901, in St. Louis, Mo., to Felix and Lily Mitchell.

Lee lived most of her life in California where she met and married Mayson Shouler. Mayson was an active photographer and businessman in Los Angeles, who dabbled in real estate, insurance, and owned two liquor stores and bars. Lee mixed drinks behind the bar; in those days the only women who could mix drinks in a bar were the owners' wives.



Lee graduated from high school and business school, and at one time owned a dance studio in California. She and Mayson traveled all over the Pacific by freighter. In addition to traveling, she enjoyed dancing and bowling.

Lee was preceded in death by her parents, and her husband, Mayson, in 1982.

She is survived by her son, William "Bill" Shouler of Kalispell; daughter Barbara McClure and husband, Alvin, of Spring Hill, Fla.; four grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

At her request, cremation will take place and no services will be held.

Arrangements and cremation are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

Karen Siefke, 60

Karen Siefke, 60, of Troy died Monday, June 23, 2003, at Kalispell Regional Center from natural causes. She was born Nov. 1, 1942, in Hibbing, Minn., to Fred and Berna Adams Hawkinson. She grew up and attended school in Hibbing, Minn., and in Eureka.

She married Kemeth Siefke in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, on Dec. 18, 1961. They made their home in Libby and later moved to Troy. She enjoyed quilting, gardening, fishing, camping and traveling.

Her husband, father and a brother Gary Hawkinson preceded her in death.

Survivors include a daughter, Connie Kelly and her husband John of Missoula; son, Harold Siefke and wife Jennifer of Troy;

boyfriend, Larry Nelson of Troy; five sisters, Joanne Kyriss and friend Tim of Libby, Vickie Parker of Columbia Falls, Norma Leib and husband Morris of Columbia Falls, Sandy Roose and husband Bill of Eureka, and Vivion Vanleishot and husband Billy of Eureka; three brothers, Ed Hawkinson and wife Sharon of Whitefish, Bill Hawkinson and wife Joan of Minnesota, and Bud Newman of Oregon; mother Berna Newman of Columbia Falls; grandchildren Jordan, Alysia, Garrett, Hannah and Joe; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Services were held on June 27 at the Church of God in Troy. Local arrangements are by the Nelson & Vial Funeral Home in Libby.

Don Lewis Sigismond, 67

Don Lewis Sigismond, 67, of Libby, died Wednesday, July 16, 2003, from natural causes.

He is survived by his wife, Jan, of Libby, and a son, Lance Sigismond of Hardin.

Mass of the Resurrection

will be 11 a.m. Tuesday, July 22, at St. Joseph Catholic Church. Visitation will be 1 to 8 p.m. Monday.

Local arrangements are by the Nelson & Vial Funeral Home in Libby.

Rosamay 'Rose' (Rowsey) Simons, 71

Rosamay "Rose" (Rowsey) Simons, 71, died on Aug. 7, 2003. She was born in Miles City to Charles Lee Sr. and Crystal

(Harem) Rowsey on May 30, 1932.

Rose attended grade school in Lakeside and Central Elementary in Kalispell. She went on to attend Flathead County High School.

In 1949, she married Kenneth Duane Simons, her husband of 22 years. Seven children were born to this union.

In 1972, Rose moved to San Luis Obispo, Calif. Upon completing her education at Questa College, she did bookkeeping for a medical clinic, until she was licensed as a day care operator.

For 25 years "Mother Rose" opened her heart and home. In 1999, when she was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease she moved to her home in Santa Maria, Calif.

Rose was preceded in death by her infant daughters, Sharla, Shelly and Kelly; her father, Charles Lee Rowsey Sr.; her former husband, Kenneth Duane



Simons; her brother, Charles "Lee" Rowsey Jr., and her mother Crystal Rowsey.

Rose is survived by her children, daughter, Shirley, and husband Duard Johnson of Fortine, and their children, Darcy, and husband Kyle Lucey of Chugiak, Alaska, Duane Johnson of Fortine, and Jason and his wife Myria (Dekay) Lee of Great Falls; daughter, Sharon, and husband Nicholas Sofonov of Cambria Pines, Calif., and Sharon's former husband Dan Stevens of Kila, and their children, Patience Stevens of Yuma, Ariz., and Joel Stevens of Kila; son, Duane, and wife Donna (Fullwiler) Simons of St. Regis, and their children, Corrie, and husband Chris Jackson of Drummond, and Travis Simons of St. Regis; and son, Darrin, and wife Ocean (Meridith) Simon of Santa Maria.

Rose had three great-grandchildren, Katie and Brian Jackson of Drummond, and Trey Stevens of Kalispell.

Memorial services are pending. Donations may be sent to The Parkinson's Research Fund: c/o the Rose Simons Memorial Fund at P.O. Box 71, St. Regis, MT 59866.

Dale Myles Simonson, 44

Dale Myles Simonson, 44, of Libby, died Oct. 4, 2003.

He is survived by his three sisters, Jennifer McElmurry, JoJo Skinner, Zetta Thorn, his brother Shawn Simonson, his half brother Lynn Simonson and half sister LaVonne Simonson.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday at the City of Libby Cemetery in Libby.

Visitation will be from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. today.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nelson and Vial Funeral Home in Libby.

Willard LaVerne Simonson, 80

Willard LaVerne Simonson, 80, passed away Tuesday, March 4, 2003, at Brendan House in Kalispell.

Willard was born July 18, 1922, in Ross, N.D., to Chrest and Edith (Budd) Simonson.

Willard married Marian Lomen in Sidney, on Jan. 20, 1944, and they recently celebrated 59 years of marriage.

Willard served in the U.S. Army during World War II from 1944 until 1946. Afterward, he worked as a farmer, barber, manager, secretary, and as the president of the local and state Eagles Lodge. He had been involved in the Eagles Lodge for over 22 years and worked with senior citizens.

Willard loved to fish, play cards, work on his computer and enjoyed the company of his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was full of laughter and always



made people laugh with his jokes.

Willard was preceded in death by his parents; an infant daughter; five brothers; and numerous other relatives.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Marian Simonson of Kalispell; son, Gregory Simonson and wife, Betty; two daughters, Peggy Snyder and Judy Simonson; two sisters, Berniece Hermanson of Grand Forks, N.D., and Mayo Miller of Williston, N.D.; eight grandchildren, Michael, Travis, Brad, Chad, Brian, Aaron, Paul, and Allison; and 14 great-grandchildren.

Visitation for Willard Simonson will be held on Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Johnson Mortuary. Funeral services will be held on Saturday, at 2 p.m. at Johnson Mortuary Chapel with Pastor Kurt Rau officiating. A reception will follow at Calvary Lutheran Church. Burial will take place in Stanley, N.D.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

Dorris La Nora Morgan Simpson, 83

Dorris La Nora Morgan Simpson, age 83, passed away on Wednesday, July 2, 2003, at the Kalispell Regional Medical Center in Kalispell.



As Lieutenant Dorris L. Morgan ANC (Army Nurse Corps), her orders were to "administer aid to the sick and wounded patients aboard air evacuation." From 1943 to 1946, Lt. Morgan served with the 803rd Medical Airevac Squadron of the CBI (China, Burma, India). After 35 months of war she returned to her home in Eureka to convalesce with her family.

Dorris La Nora Morgan Simpson was born June 23, 1920, to John Henry Morgan, a veteran of the Great War and Barbara Kathryn Morgan, a teacher and pioneer of the Tobacco Valley.

Dorris' brother, John Morgan, Ronald Morgan, and Donald Morgan have been life long residents of Eureka.

Dorris graduated from high school in Eureka in 1938, and attended college in Missoula for one year before entering St. Elizabeth's School of Nursing in Baker, Ore.

For Dorris, 1942 was filled with Army and Airevac training as she joined in her generation's call to arms. She crossed America on trains filled with her fellow soldiers as they made their way to training fields, air fields, and remote foreign lands. Dorris' stories, whether

amusing anecdotes or sobering accounts, have nourished and inspired the three daughters who survived her. Tana Kathryn Simpson, Louisa Simpson Nye and Robin Lenore Carlisle join the rest of Dorris' family.

"Yours still, you mine, remember all the best."

Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday, July 9, at the Johnson Mortuary Chapel with Father Donald Shea officiating.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary & Crematory.

Elizabeth Anne Shove, infant

Elizabeth Anne Shove, infant daughter of Kenneth and Michelle Shove of Hungry Horse, died Sunday, Oct. 26, 2003, at the North Valley Hospital in Whitefish.

Survivors include her parents, Kenneth L. and Michelle R. (Baldrige) Shove of Hungry Horse; three sisters, Becca Lee Shove, Carlie Elaine Shove and Jessica Renee Shove, and three brothers, Kenneth Lee Shove Jr., Jimmy Donald Shove and Daniel Robert Shove, all at home;

maternal grandparents, Sylvia and Robert Inocencio of New Caney, Texas, and paternal grandparents, Donald and Carlina Shove of Hayden Lake, Idaho; maternal great-grandmother, Althie Teague of Houston, and paternal great-grandmother, Dora Shove of Twin Lake, Idaho.

Funeral services and burial will be held in Rathdrum, Idaho.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

Jerry E. Shupert, 59

Jerry E. Shupert, 59, died Thursday evening, Oct. 9, 2003, at his home in Trego.

He had owned and operated the Trego Mercantile for 10 years until his retirement in 2002.

He is survived by his wife,

Joanne Phelps Shupert, and his children, David, Steven and Lorna Shupert, Kathy, Sam, Carl, Scott, Kristeen, Bobby, Lisa and Carrie.

A potluck gathering will be held 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 18, at Trego Community Hall.

Lois 'Lou' Ressler Skinner, 85

Lois "Lou" Ressler Skinner, 85, passed away Friday, June 20, 2003, at the Colonial Manor in Whitefish.

She was born Oct. 25, 1917, in Martins Ferry, Ohio, to Landis Wilmer and Alma (Thompson) Ressler. Lou graduated from high school in Martins Ferry, in 1937.

On Dec. 14, 1944, she joined the Coast Guard and served until separating May 22, 1946. Lou then moved to Kalispell, where she attended business college and began work as a secretary for the Bureau of Reclamation.

She met and married Robert Skinner Sept. 15, 1951, in Hungry Horse. Lou and Robert both worked for the Bureau of Reclamation and traveled from Tiber Dam to Prineville Dam to Haystack Dam near Redmond, Ore., and on to The Dalles irrigation system in The Dalles, Ore.

In 1964, the couple moved to Yakima, Wash., where they operated an apple and cherry orchard for 25 years before retiring in 1989 and moving to Whitefish.

Lou was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Whitefish and was always such a happy



lady. She had a tremendous love for children and enjoyed spoiling her nieces and nephews. Lou loved her animals, her garden and her hats; of which she had one for every chore or occasion. Lou had a special talent for impacting people's lives and she will be remembered by all who knew and loved her.

Lou was preceded in death by her husband, Robert; her parents; and one brother, Glenn L. Ressler.

She is survived by one brother, Donald H. Ressler of Hendrysburg, Ohio; numerous nieces and nephews in Pennsylvania and Ohio, including Monna Anderson, Rand and Dan Ressler and Pam McCort; and a nephew, Brian Skinner of Snohomish, Wash; and two nieces, Shaune Godfrey of Snohomish, and Lisa Skinner of Seattle. She is also survived by her dear friends, the Hamilton family. Her beloved cat, Kitty Cat Max, will also miss her.

Memorial services for Lois Skinner will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday, June 25, at the First Presbyterian Church of Whitefish with Pastor Andy Kennaly officiating.

The family suggests memorial gifts be given to the charity of the donor's choice.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

Floyd Leone Skogen departed this world on Oct. 18, 2003, "with the assurance that he was headed for a better place to be with his Savior Jesus Christ and loved ones who had gone on before him." He passed away at St. Patrick's Hospital in Missoula where he had a short stay. He lived to be past 92 years old, at home with his wife of 67 years, Catherine "Katie" until the last four days, always with a sharp mind, and interest in the activities around him.



Floyd was born on April 16, 1911, to Genhart and Minnie (Olson) Skogen in Hillsboro, N.D., in his grandmother's home. He was taken as an infant to live on his parents' newly claimed homestead in Malta, where he was joined by a brother, Earl, and sister, Goldie. At six, Floyd moved to Kalispell with his family where his father died of tuberculosis. His mother returned with her children to "prove up" the homestead in Malta. The family returned to Kalispell when he was 12, to be near his mother's extended Scandinavian family.

He met the love of his life, Catherine "Katie" Leone Desch, in 1932, in Kalispell, when she babysat his cousin's children. They were married in midsummer, June 21, 1936, in Sandpoint, Idaho.

In 1939, Floyd and Katie went to Seattle, to find better work. He was a tire vulcanizer during the "War Years" and a member of the Montana National Guard. They lived in Seattle until the fall of 1945, when they returned home to raise their girls, Geraldine "Jerry" and Barbara. He and Katie also had the pleasure and honor of helping raise their loving niece, Joyce Olsen. His "girls" (Jerry, Barbara, and Joyce) and his grandchildren were the light of his life. They all knew that in his eyes they were the prettiest and smartest kids ever born.

His mother, brother Earl, and sister Goldie Broo, preceded Floyd in death.

He is survived by his wife, Katie, at home; daughters, Geraldine and husband, Gary Young, and Barbara Cameron, all of Kalispell; and special niece, Joyce and husband, Les Potts, of Bigfork. Grandchildren are Chelsea and husband, Vinny Malhotra, of Highlands Ranch, Colo., Chantel and husband, Lee Abel Gary Young, Darcy and husband, Jay Metzger, of Kalispell, Harvey F. Jewett of Spokane, Melissa Potts and husband, Mike Anderson, and Mandy Potts of Dillon, and Bradley Potts of Bigfork, Jeff Cameron and wife, Darlene, of Columbia Falls, James Cameron and wife, Theresa, of Deer Lodge, and John Cameron and wife Freda Pomeroy of

Kalispell; and 13 great-grandchildren. Surviving brothers-in-law are Melvin Desch and wife, Margie, and Roy Desch of Kalispell.

Floyd worked from the time he was a child, first on farms, then in gas stations, on trail crews, fire crews, tire shops, a tailor shop, finally settling at Mountain States Power Company (later Pacific Power Co.) for the last 30 years of his working years. He retired in 1976.

He was always doing extra jobs to provide the best for his family. Floyd will be remembered as a handy man, a jack-of-all-trades,

who was often called upon to help with most any task someone didn't know how to do. He might not know how either, but he'd soon find out how and do the job. He tackled everything from mechanics, to wiring, plumbing, and carpentry.

He took a lot of classes by correspondence or post graduate at the high school, before Flathead Valley Community College was established. He always had an interest in how everything worked. He built his retirement home by himself at the young age of 70. He was a quiet, unassuming, man, keeping his knowledge and accomplishments and abilities to himself unless asked.

Floyd was an antique automobile buff. He restored a Model A, Model T and an Oakland and drove them in countless meets throughout 40 years of membership in the Flathead Pioneer Automobile Club. He was member of the IBEW Union, local 768, and a long-time member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles. He and Katie loved to travel and especially enjoyed trips south in their motor homes, including Mexico.

He was a 50-plus-year member of Central Bible Church. He was also a member of the Sparrows Club at the Crystal Cathedral television ministry. He especially enjoyed that television ministry in the later years, and was privileged to attend that California church in person on his winter travels.

Floyd loved music. He always had a song in his heart, and a whistle on his lips, and that whistle will be greatly missed.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 23, at Johnson's Mortuary, with internment at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery, reception following at Central Bible Church.

Memorials are suggested to Central Bible Church, 902 First Ave. E, Kalispell, MT; or The Salvation Army, 110 Bountiful Drive, Kalispell, MT.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Funeral Home and Crematory.

Esther B. Shy

Esther B. Shy died Feb. 1, 2003, at North Valley Hospital in Whitefish.

She is survived by her stepmother, Lena Robinett of Ironton, Mo.; daughter, Burma Jo Williams, of Fortine; and son, William H. Shy of Hot Springs, Ark.

A private family interment

will take place at the Fortine Community Cemetery on Friday. A memorial remembrance will follow at 11 a.m. at the Fortine Community Church with the Rev. Jim Fitz officiating.

Arrangements and burial are under the direction of Nelson & Vial Funeral Home.

Ruth Margaret Sliter, 68

Ruth Margaret Sliter, 68, died Dec. 9, 2002, in Kalispell.

She was born Dec. 24, 1933, in Kalispell to Walter and Anna (Timm) Franz.

Ruth was raised in Kalispell and received her early education here. She attended Flathead High School, then went to the University of Montana earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in foreign languages. In 1956, she married Joe Sliter in Kalispell and they enjoyed 30 years together.

Ruth entered the teaching profession and taught for 20 years, first in Somers, then Trinity Lutheran School and Bigfork High School, where she taught Spanish and German.

She enjoyed working in the community by being involved in Samaritan House, AFS Intercultural Programs, Bethany Lutheran Church, Violence Free Crisis Line and numerous other volunteer activities.

Among her many interests were her grandchildren, her former students and traveling.



She was preceded in death by her husband, Joe; her parents, Walter and Anna Franz; her sister, Elfrieda; and husband, Pat Knutson.

Ruth is survived by her best friend, Harry Farrington, of Kalispell; three daughters, Su Dalton and husband Tim (JR), Bobbi Wolstein and husband Mike, and Jan Boon and husband Dan, all of the Flathead Valley; one sister, Louise Furlong and husband Noel of Kalispell; grandchildren, Lindsey, Ben, Lauren and Lesley Dalton, Frannie and Joe Wolstein, and Danny Boon; and many nieces and nephews; also her lifelong friend, Marge LeDuc; and she was very fond of her dog, Dakota.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at Bethany Lutheran Church in Bigfork. Visitation will be from 4 to 6 p.m. Wednesday at Johnson Mortuary Chapel.

The family suggests memorials be made to Samaritan House, P. O. Box 592, Kalispell, MT 59901, or Bigfork Booster Club for the Track and Football complex, P.O. Box 204, Bigfork, MT 59911, or Bethany Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 398, Bigfork, MT 59911. Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

Kevin Dale Smart, 19

Kevin Dale Smart, 19, "went to be with the Lord" on Feb. 28, 2003, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center.

He is survived by his mother, Lila Pomeroy; stepfather, Kenneth Pomeroy; sisters, Kari Smart and Trina Edwards; brothers, Ryan and Michael Smart; aunt and uncle, Dave and Fawn Edwards; cousins, Krystine, Nycole, Bambi, and Mylissa Edwards-Bushnell; grandparents, Ted and Betty Pomeroy; and many more family and friends all in Flathead County.



"Kevin was an exceptional young man with a good heart and a personality that will never be forgotten. This world will never be the same without him. He could always make a joke out of anything and we will miss the laughter that we have all shared with him. Although his life was short, he made a huge impression on us all that we will always keep in our hearts. He will be greatly missed. Kevin, we love you and will miss you deeply."

Visitation will be from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Monday at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home. Services will follow at 1 p.m. at Northridge Heights Church of God. Burial will be at the Fortine cemetery.

Lois D. Smart, 92

Lois D. Smart, 92, died Thursday, Feb. 27, 2003, at St. John Lutheran Hospital in Libby.

She was born at Kalispell, on July 27, 1910, to Charles W. Disbrow and Laura Redecker Disbrow. Lois was raised and educated in the Kalispell and Polson area. She married Stanley R. Smart on Nov. 12, 1927, at Anaconda.

They resided in Missoula from 1929 to 1948 where the family had operated the Texaco Service Station; the family moved to Libby in 1948, operating Libby Motors and later, the Smart Oil Company.

Her husband Stanley preceded her in death in 1983.

She had been a longtime member of the Presbyterian Church and Presbyterian Women's Association and the Order of the Eastern Star.

She thoroughly enjoyed being a mother and grandma and helping others; for many years, she had served as a volunteer at the Libby Care Center.

Also preceding her in death was a brother, William Disbrow, and two daughters-in-law, Phyllis Smart and Joan Smart.

Surviving are her five sons, Royal Smart of Crystal Lakes, Ill., Jim Smart of Libby, Bill Smart of Tucson, Doug Smart of LaConner, Wash., and Ted Smart of Lake Oswego, Ore.; 15 grandchildren, numerous great-grandchildren as well as one great-great grandchild.

Services will be Saturday at 1 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church with Rev. Wallace Smith officiating.

Memorials may be made to the Presbyterian Church, 101 Mahoney Rd., Libby; or to Gideons International, 2051 Kootenai River Rd., Libby 59923.

Arrangements are under the care of Nelson & Vial Funeral Home.

Merlin LaRoy 'Mel' Smart, 70

Merlin LaRoy "Mel" Smart, 70, passed away on Sunday, April 13, 2003, at the Medical Center at Fort Harrison.

He was born on May 16, 1932, in Dickinson, N.D., to Earl S. and Minna Grohn Smart. He moved as a young child to Dillon, where he lived until moving to Portland, where his father was a school teacher. He attended Woodlawn Elementary, Jefferson High School and Portland State College. While in the Marine Corps, Mel took courses in journalism at Northwestern University. He served in the Marine Corps from 1951 to 1955 serving in the Korean War.

Mel married Marian Elaine Hermann in 1969 in Portland. They moved to the Flathead Valley in 1979, where they have resided ever since. He owned his own business, Artistry in Wood. Mel belonged to the Kalispell Lions Club, taught hunters safety classes for 10 years, built toys for tots for many years, and donated work and stock blanks to the friends of the Nation-

al Rifle Association.

His hobbies included photography, model airplanes, woodcarving and tending his roses. He was an avid hunter and fisherman.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Jack Smart.

He is survived by his wife of 34 years, Marian; son Michael Earl Smart; daughter Kimberly Luff and her husband Rick; daughter Beverly Smart; sister Lillian Schmauch; grandchildren Jennifer, Amanda and Jason Taylor; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home, with the Rev. Tim Bartholomew officiating. Burial will follow at C.E. Conrad Cemetery. Military honors will be done by the United Veterans of the Flathead Valley.

The family request memorials to the Kalispell Lions Club, P.O. Box 321, Kalispell, MT 59903. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Barbara Ladd Smith, 84

Barbara Ladd Smith, 84, passed peacefully at home surrounded by family, Tuesday evening, July 29, 2003, in Indian Valley, Idaho.

Barbara was born on April 17, 1919, to Edward Thorndike and Annie Bessom Ladd of Niagara Falls, N.Y., joining her older brothers, Bob, Rod and Don.

After attending Elmira College and graduating from St. Lawrence University, Barbara married Whitney Smith of Helena, in Niagara Falls on Oct. 13, 1944.

Barbara and Whitney built the family home on the shore of Whitefish Lake in northwest Montana near Glacier National Park where they raised four daughters, Madeline, Whitney, Natalie and Martha.

Barbara gardened, canned fruits and vegetables and volunteered in the Whitefish Hospital Women's Guild and excelled at golf in her leisure time.

In 1975, Barbara and Whitney moved to Waikaloa on Hawaii's "Big Island," famed for perfect climate and beautiful golf courses.

After Whitney's death in 1992, Barbara moved to Indian Valley to be close to family.

Four daughters survive — Madeline Daniel of Divide, Whitney Voermans and husband, Robert, Natalie Smith of Indian Valley, Idaho, and Martha Smith of Whitefish.

Barbara's four surviving grandchildren are Robert Voermans of Boise, Idaho, Martha Voermans of Council, Idaho, Rachel VandeVoort and husband, Alex, of Whitefish, and Carl Daniel of Potomac.

Barbara's one great-grandchild, Anika, is the daughter of Robert and Noel Voermans of Boise.

According to Barbara's wishes, her remains will be cremated and no services are planned. For those who wish to remember Barbara, the family requests that you please donate to the National Humane Society or the charity of your choice.

Barbara will be missed by all who were privileged to know her.

Billee Ruthe Lillian Smith, 93

Billee Ruthe Lillian Smith, 93, of Whitefish, formerly of Palo Alto, Calif., died Monday, Sept. 17, 2003, at Colonial Manor in Whitefish.

She is survived by her daughter, Mary Ann Chapman

of Whitefish.

No local services are scheduled at this time.

Austin Funeral Home in Whitefish is in charge of the arrangements.

Carol (Lodinoff) Smith

Memorial services for Carol (Lodinoff) Smith who passed away on June 7, 2003, in Anchorage, Alaska, will be at

noon on Saturday, June 28, at Fenders Restaurant, 4090 U.S. 93 N, between Kalispell and Whitefish.

Colleen Maree Smith, 56

Colleen Maree Smith, 56, passed away in her home in Vancouver, Wash., on Oct. 18, 2003, surrounded by her family, friends and dedicated care givers. She



succumbed to breast cancer after a courageous four-year battle. Colleen also had lived with multiple sclerosis since her late 20s.

Born June 10, 1947, in Kalispell, to John and Monna McQuirk, she graduated from Flathead High School in 1965, met and married Robert Smith of Whitefish, and in 1970 they transferred to the west coast.

Colleen was preceded in death in 1998 by her father, John McQuirk.

She is survived by her two children, Matthew Smith and Lisa McKenzie in Vancouver; her husband Bob in Ridgefield, Wash.; her mother, Monna McQuirk, and sisters, Mary Beth Pollock, and Leslie Kasberg, all of Kalispell, and sis-

ter, Sandi Linus, of Seattle; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Colleen had a passion for horses and spent many hours caring for them. She was a lover of animals all of her life and was comforted by their companionship in her confinement. She loved gardening and her yard flourished with beautiful roses. Although travel was difficult for her, she loved the ocean and would go there on occasion and was recently able to travel back to Kalispell after an absence of 15 years. She had enjoyed summers spent at the family cabin on Echo Lake and reminisced often of the good times there.

A small memorial service for family and friends will be hosted by her children in Vancouver and then her ashes will be returned to Kalispell for a graveside memorial and burial at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery. She will be lovingly held in the hearts of her family and friends and greatly missed.

The family requests, in lieu of flowers, to please donate to a charity of your choice.

Danielle Sandra Smith, 16

Danielle Sandra Smith, 16, died Jan. 5, 2003, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center in Kalispell.

She was born Sept. 16, 1986, in Auburn, Wash., to Danny Roy and Diana Kay Smith.

Danielle was raised in Kent, Wash., where she went to Martin Sortun and Pine Tree Elementary, then to Kent Junior High and Sequoia Junior High. In September of 2002 her family moved to Somers where her father grew up and she attended Somers Middle School, graduating from eighth grade. She was attending Flathead High School until the time of her death. Her favorite teachers were Jim Hasz of Kent, Wash., and Mr. McCandliss at Somers Middle School.

She loved to collect rocks and had a rock collection with rocks from all over the world which she received from friends and loved ones. She was a gifted writer of poems and short stories. She played the saxophone and keyboard, and enjoyed school plays and performances. She also enjoyed books, science and learning. She was a member of the Girl Scouts Troop No. 1205.

Another of Danielle's loves was Seagulville, a miniature pioneer town located next to the Cedar River in Maple Valley, Wash., owned by her teacher, Jim Hasz. She helped build and maintain the grounds as well as portraying different characters when younger students came to visit the town.

Danielle enjoyed her cat, Sammy, and was a very loving person to those around her. The family thanks everyone for their love and



support and prayers since Danielle's cardiac arrest on April 2, 2001.

Danielle is survived by her parents, Danny and Diana Smith of Kalispell; two brothers and three sisters, Darrin Smith and wife, Lori, Anne Durand and husband, Marc, Susie Snapp and husband, Tetsu, all of Kent, Wash., Joshua Hull of Antrim, N.H., and Kimberly Hull of Redmond, Wash.

Aunts and uncles are Ed and Patty Smith, and Butch and Sandi Swartzenberger, all of Kalispell, Robert and Colette Dick of Prescott, Ariz., Scot and Vicki Dick of Rice, Wash., and Tim Dick and Jody Jones, both of Milton, Wash.

Maternal grandparents are Gail Valenzuela of Kalispell, and Robert and Sheila Dick of Enumclaw, Wash.; great-grandmother, Helen Penick of Lakeport, Calif.; and numerous great aunts and uncles; nephews, C. J. Smith, Alex Smith, Henri Durand, and Noah Snapp; nieces, Isabella Durand and Jazmyn Snapp; cousins, Dan, Darrel, Eric and Lane Smith and their families, Tina Franklin and John Swartzenberger and their families, all of Kalispell, Bill Todd of Belgrade, Adam, Britney, Katie Jo, and Andrew Dick; Jennifer and Jackie Griffin, Tim Dick Jr.; and Sarah and Kelley Jones.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. on Friday at Johnson Mortuary Chapel with burial at Fairview Cemetery. Visitation will be from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. today at Johnson Mortuary Chapel and Friday morning until noon.

The family suggests memorials be sent to Shriners Children's Hospital, P.O. Box 2472, Spokane, WA 99210.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

Daisy M. Smith, 75

Daisy M. Smith, 75, formerly of Kalispell, passed away May 25, 2003, at St. Joseph Hospital in Bellingham, Wash., surrounded by several of her children.

She was born Feb. 3, 1928, in Nome, Alaska, to parents, George and Mary Kite. She lived most of her childhood in Alaska and later lived in Montana and Washington states.

She loved camping, fishing, crocheting, knitting, laughing, puzzles and games.

Daisy is survived by five daughters and sons-in-law: Mary and Ron Freese of Kalispell, Carolinda and Rich Darling of Hous-

ton, British Columbia, Kathy and Zennon Szymczyk of Anchorage, Alaska, Julie and Steve White of Lake Forest, Calif., and Ruthie and Ron Johnson of Monroe, Wash.; three sons and daughters-in-law: Bob and Deanna Sunde of Bigfork, Buckley and Deb Isakson of Kalispell, and Jon and Cheryl Vandenberg of Burlington, Wash.

She is also survived by 23 grandchildren and 31 great-grandchildren.

No public services are planned. At Daisy's request, cremation has taken place and her remains will be returned to her beloved homeland of Alaska.

Daisy O. Smith, 95

Daisy O. Smith, 95, passed away on Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2003, at Brendan House in Kalispell.

Daisy was born Oct. 19, 1908, in Devils Lake, N.D., to Benjamin and Clara Weaver Nelson. She moved to a homestead in Lincoln County near Rexford when she was 2 years old. The family logged and farmed for a living. Daisy was an avid outdoors person who enjoyed berry picking, fishing, hunting and gardening.

Daisy lived in Kalispell for the past 71 years, most of them at her home on Flathead Drive, where she enjoyed raising flowers, vegetables and fruit trees. She enjoyed knitting, crocheting, sewing braiding rugs, quilting, jewelry making and wood working. She also enjoyed playing cards, doing crossword puzzles, and was an avid reader of the local newspaper.

She was preceded in death by

her parents; her husband, E.L. Smith, in 1969; her daughter, Clara Mackey, in 1999; and a grandson, Brad Smith, in 1989.

She is survived by one son and his wife, James and Amber Smith, of Havre; a sister, Faith and Don Lasher of Kalispell; four grandchildren, Susan and Donny Davis of Phenix City, Ala., Daniel and Wendi Mackey of Stayton, Ore., Melissa Smith and David of San Francisco, and Terri and Keith Johnson of Belgrade; four great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. today at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home, with the Rev. Jan Van der Poll of Central Christian Church officiating. Burial will follow at Glacier Memorial Gardens.

Memorials may be made to the charity of the donor's choice.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Helen 'Carol' Smith, 59

Galena, Alaska, resident Helen "Carol" Smith, 59, died in her sleep June 7, 2003, at Providence Alaska Medical Center in Anchorage, Alaska from colon cancer.

A small service for friends and family will at 2 p.m. Thursday at Evergreen Memorial Chapel, 737 E St. in Anchorage. A second memorial service in Whitefish is pending.

Carol was born March 18, 1944, in Whitefish, to Maxine Lodinoff. Her stepfather of many years was Alex Lodinoff. She married James Smith in 1963, right after graduating from Whitefish High school. After four years of college in Superior, Wis., she and her husband spent 32 years serving education in Montana and Alaska. The family spent 21 years in Rudyard.

She moved with her husband to Galena in the summer of 1999 where she worked for the Galena City School District in the library.

Her family wrote, "Carol was a true angel in every way. She was a nurturing mother and loving daughter, who thrived on daily contact with her children. Her granddaughter, Trinidi, was the focus of these last eight years of her life and will carry her spirit into the future. In Carol's world,

friends became family and these lasting adoptions used up all the time in her day. Her parents, children, and siblings were her fondest possessions. She had an extensive cookbook collection and was happiest when she was preparing meals for all her friends and family. Her kind heart and beautiful smile will be missed by everyone who was lucky enough to share a moment with her. Knitting, cooking and spending time with her family were her favorite things to do."

She is survived by her husband of almost 40 years, Jim; son and daughter-in-law, Doug and Patti, all of Galena; daughter and son-in-law, Kimberly and Ameer of Anchorage; and granddaughter, Trinidi of Anchorage; parents, Maxine and Alex Lodinoff; brother, Bubby; all of Whitefish; brothers, Bernie Robertson of Ranier, Wash., Bob Robertson of Havre; sisters, Penni Robertson of Havre, Debbie of Billings, and their families; sister-in-law, Shirley Devoe of Nova Scotia; father- and mother-in-law, Marjorie and Lloyd Brownell of San Francisco.

She was preceded in death by her natural father, Bill Robertson; and sisters, Carlene and Linda.

MaryAnne Smith

MaryAnne Smith was born in Detroit on Oct. 27, 1919. She moved to Kalispell in 1956 with her father, Hugh McLeod, where she raised her son, Dan.



She cooked in the kitchen and helped with the noon meal at St. Matthew's School, where her son, Dan went to school for eight years.

She was a loving mom to Dan and his wife, Nancy, and grandma to Bob and Becky, her twin grandkids and their many cousins who knew her as grandma Smith. She did many things including crafts, sewing, canning, and she cooked many things including hundreds of colorful popcorn balls for the Eagles Halloween Party for the kids for many years.

MaryAnne was a life member of the Eagles and helped out with many special events there. She

was very strong willed and lived at home until recently, when she fell and broke her hip and needed 24-hour nursing care.

The last few months she lived, first at Heritage Place and then finally at Brendan House, where the nursing staffs of both facilities became very attached to her. She was very well taken care of until she passed away peacefully in her sleep, early in the morning of Dec. 1, 2003.

MaryAnne is survived by her son, Dan and daughter-in-law, Nancy of Columbia Falls; her grandson, Bob of Helena and granddaughter, Becky and her husband, Shawn Bates, of Columbia Falls.

A funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, at the Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls. Burial will follow in C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery in Kalispell.

Visitation will be from 1 to 8 p.m. today at the Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls.

Myrtle J. Smith, 85

Myrtle J. Smith, 85, died Tuesday Sept. 9, 2003, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center in Kalispell.

She was born April 14, 1918, in Edam, Saskatchewan, to James T. and Rose E. (Miles) Smith. Myrtle, at the age of three, came with her parents from their farm in Edam to Stanley, N.D. They lived and worked for some years on the Miley Dairy Farm. She attended and graduated from schools in Stanley.

The years following graduation were spent as a bookkeeper/clerk in the Will Lumber Yard, the Anderson Ace Hardware and the Mountrail County auditor's office.

Myrtle's mother died in April of 1967. Myrtle and her father left Stanley for Creston in the fall of 1970, where they were partners in the grocery store/gas station/post office combination. In April 1985, Myrtle's father passed away.

Myrtle was active in all departments of the Stanley Presbyterian Church, was a trustee, taught Sun-

day school and sang in the choir for many years. She was a member of the Rebekah Lodge and the McDowell Music Club. Myrtle and her parents were very active in helping raise many welfare children.

Myrtle is survived by her special friends, Dale and Lois Lauman of Lakeside; and Phil and Sarah Gunderson of Bigfork; many close friends and several nieces and nephews in Saskatchewan.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 13, at Johnson Mortuary Chapel with Pastor Jeryl Hollinger officiating. Visitation will be held today from 2 to 6 p.m. at Johnson Mortuary Chapel. Burial will take place in the Fairview Cemetery, Stanley, N.D.

The family suggest memorials be sent to the Creston Fire Department at 200 Kauffman Lane, Kalispell, MT 59901 or to the charity of your choice.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

Reed Smith, 17

Reed Smith, 17, died Wednesday, Aug. 6, 2003, at Deaconess Medical Center in Spokane.

He is survived by his parents, Rick and Heidi Smith of Anchorage, Alaska, and his sisters, Lindsey Smith-Gabriel and Brittny Smith, both of Anchor-

age and Columbia Falls.

Services will be 3 p.m. today at the First Baptist Church in Eureka; interment services will follow at Tobacco Valley Cemetery under the direction of Nelson & Vial Funeral Home in Eureka.

Rodney R. Smith, 54

Rodney R. Smith, 54, of Libby, died on June 27, 2003, at his home in Libby, from natural causes.

He worked as a logger for many years in the Libby area.

He is survived by his wife, Thelma Smith of Libby; daughter, Michelle Ryan of Vancouver, Wash.; son, Rod "Buddy "

Smith Jr. of Longview, Wash.; and parents, K.O. and Winnie Smith of Libby.

Services will be Monday, July 7 at 1 p.m. at the Libby Christian Church. Visitation will be from 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

Local arrangements are by the Nelson & Vial Funeral Home in Libby.

William Louis 'Bill' Smith, 58

William Louis "Bill" Smith, 58, passed away on June 20, 2003, in Kalispell. He was born on July 30, 1944, in Portage, Wis., to Mildred Florence Smith.

Bill received his early education in Portage before moving to Pardeeville and graduating from Pardeeville High School.

He then traveled to California with a number of friends looking for work and ended up joining the military. Bill served in the Army from 1964 until being honorably discharged in 1967. He then worked for GIC, a plastics factory for three years before becoming a postal carrier.

Bill worked with the Postal Service in Oconomowac, Wis., until 1981. He then worked for GNC, a health foods store, for a short time before coming to Montana on a spiritual quest.

Bill was a very special person, always willing to give a helping hand. He had a tremendous love for gardening and could make anything grow. Bill will be missed by



his many friends across the country.

Bill was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents. He is survived by his mother, Mildred and Clayton Broesch of Pardeeville, Wis.; one sister, Gloria and James Adams of Sandwich, Ill.; two brothers, Terry and Shirley Broesch of Portage, Wis., and Clayton Broesch Jr. and Debra of Rio, Wis.; one daughter, Heather of Poynette, Wis.; and a son, Aaron of Ohio. He is also survived by his dear friend, Gordy of Kalispell and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. on Thursday, June 26, at Johnson Mortuary. Visitation will be held on Thursday from 9 a.m. until the time of services. Military honors will be by the United Veterans of the Flathead.

The family suggests in lieu of flowers, memorial gifts be given to the Ray of Hope U.S. 2 East, Kalispell, MT 59901; or Shining Mountain Church of Religious Science; 475 Eighth Ave. E.N., Kalispell, MT 59901.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

Earl Sellers Smithson, 77

Earl Sellers Smithson, 77, "went to be with his Lord" on Thursday, Aug. 7, 2003, at Kalispel Regional Medical Center following a short illness.



Earl was born on March 12, 1926, in Chinook, to Ross and Myrtle Sellers Smithson. He started school in a small one-room schoolhouse on the prairie near Hogeland. He moved to live on a ranch near Columbia Falls, when he was 11 years old. He attended school in Columbia Falls, graduating from Columbia Falls High School.

After high school, Earl joined the Navy where he served in the Pacific Theatre near the end of World War II. He attended Carroll College at the beginning of his Naval service.

Earl married Evelyn Lewis on Oct. 12, 1947, in Kalispell.

Earl worked as a cement finisher on the Hungry Horse and Libby dam projects. He also worked on the aluminum plant and had worked on many commercial as well as housing projects throughout the state. He had finished cement projects for many of his friends and relatives on through his retirement at the age of 75.

He enjoyed spending time with his family and friends, enjoying meals with them and especially playing games like dominoes and farkle. He enjoyed many special hunting and fishing trips with his sons-in-law, grandsons, friends and relatives. He liked metal detecting, digging for old bottles, reading, writing poetry and playing pinochle at the Mountain Brook School in the winter time.

Earl was preceded in death by his parents, Ross and Myrtle Smithson; a daughter, Barbara Kennedy; and brothers-in-law, Bill Sibley and Homer Ruff.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Evelyn, of Kalispell; four daughters and their spouses, Mike and Judy Bolog of Kalispell, Cathy and Dave Evenson of Bigfork, Sandra and Rich Kruckenberg of Fairbanks, Alaska, and Jim and Diana Larsen of Bigfork; grandchildren, James Bolog of Fairbanks, Justin Bolog and his wife, Shannon, of Fort St. John, British Columbia, Scott Evenson and his wife, Julie, of Great Falls, Chad Evenson of Bigfork, Kami and her husband, BJ Collins of Kalispell, Misty Hanson and her fiancée, Jason Loveless of Kalispell, and Dean, Kerry and Kyle Kruckenberg of Fairbanks, Jesse, Brent and Audrey Larsen of Bigfork; great-grandchildren, Jordan, Ashlyn, Kierstin, Veronica, Zachary, Trinity, Blake, Alesa; three stepgrandchildren and families; many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be from 3 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 12, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 13, at Glacier Church with the Dr. Hal Irvine and Pastor Ron Pierce officiating. A reception will follow the services with interment to follow at Fairview Cemetery.

The family request that in lieu of flowers, memorials be made in Earl's name to either the Mountain Brook Community Scholarship Fund, or Library Fund c/o Linda Benson, 275 Van Sant Road, Kalispell, MT 59901; or Glacier Church, P.O. Box 7234, Kalispell, MT 59901.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Arthur Smylie, 58

Arthur Smylie, 58, passed away on Friday, May 23, 2003, at the Veterans Hospital in Denver.

Art was born on Nov. 9, 1944, in Sidney, to William and



Mary Davenport Smylie. He attended the Great Falls Cooking School in Great Falls. He trained in the fundamentals of cooking, maintenance and sanitary protocol of the kitchen.

He served in the Air Force as a AB/e-1 propeller mechanic at Nellis Air base in Las Vegas. He worked as a cook at the Holiday Inn in Midland, Texas, head cook at Denny's Restaurant in Midland, Texas, line cook at the Korner Kitchen in Bigfork, head cook at the Branding Iron Steak House in Kalispell, and line cook at the Pin & Cue in Whitefish. He had over 35

years experience in cooking.

Art served as a commander at the Am Vets Post 14 in Clovis, N.M., in 1984. He loved to go fishing, hunting, camping and watch wrestling on TV.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers and sisters, David Smylie, Bob Smylie, Bill Smylie, Jean Cook and Irene Plyer.

He is survived by daughters, Susan Selig of Kalispell, Melissa Smylie of Great Falls, and, Brenda Stafford of Scottsdale, Ariz.; son, Robert Smylie of Kalispell; ex-wife Connie Voorhies; brothers and sisters, Jim Smylie of Milton Freewater, Ore., Linda Lorenz of Billings, and Jerry Smylie of Arizona.

Graveside services will be at 1 p.m. Monday, June 2, at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery with the United Veterans of the Flathead Valley doing the honors.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Lois N. Snedigar, 81

Lois N. Snedigar, 81, died Friday, Nov. 7, 2003, at her home in Fortine.

Survivors include a son, Roland Snedigar, of Fortine.

Private family services will be held. Local arrangements are by Nelson & Vial Funeral Home in Eureka.

Ray Harrison Snow Jr., 59

Ray Harrison Snow Jr., 59, died at his home in St. George, Utah, of natural causes on Nov. 7, 2003.

He had been head timekeeper for the Union Pacific Railroad for 23 years before retiring.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara, of St. George; and his son, Kory Snow, of Kalispell.

Memorial services were held Monday, Nov. 10, at Metcalf Mortuary Chapel in St. George.

Elizabeth 'Betty' Irene Snyder, 79

Elizabeth "Betty" Irene Snyder, 79, longtime resident of Whitefish, passed away on March 10, 2003, at St. Patrick's Hospital in Missoula, due to heart failure.



"Today we sadly mourn her passing."

Betty was born Sept. 4, 1923, to Leslie and Minnie Mason in Whitefish where she grew up and went to school.

She married Dick Snyder on July 6, 1942. Shortly after, they moved to California where they raised their family. In the early

1970s, they moved back to Whitefish to build their home and eventually retired.

Betty was a long-time member of the Moose. She was also a member of the birthday club.

Betty is survived by her husband, Dick Snyder; her sisters, Barbara King, and Shirley and husband, Jake Jacobson, all of Whitefish; her four children, Nancy Bredell of Missouri, Barbara Volkman of Whitefish, Phillip Snyder and Kenneth Snyder, both of Kalispell; also her seven grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Services will be at 1 p.m. on Saturday at the Moose Lodge in Whitefish.

Gus A. Soderling Jr., 85

Gus A. Soderling Jr., 85, a longtime resident of the Tobacco Valley, died Sunday, Sept. 14, 2003, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center in Kalispell.

He had worked for Lincoln Electric Cooperative for 35 years until his retirement in 1986.

Survivors include his children, John Soderling and Rose Marie O'Connor, of Eureka, and Marybeth Childers of Sil-

ver Spring, Md.

Mass of the Resurrection will be at 10 a.m. Friday at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church in Eureka. Interment services with military honors will follow at Tobacco Valley Cemetery. Rosary and parish vigil services will be at 7 p.m. today at the church.

Arrangements are by Nelson & Vial Funeral Home in Eureka.

Alice O. Soderstrom, 85

Alice O. Soderstrom, 85, passed away on Thursday, April 3, 2003, in Kalispell.

She was born on Nov. 29, 1917, in Kalispell, to Henry and Ruth (Jones) Sievers.

Alice was raised in Kalispell and graduated from school here.

She married Clarence L. Soderstrom in 1936 and was married for 61 years. Alice worked as a cabinetmaker for Bell's Manufacturing for 10 years and was also a wonderful homemaker.

Alice had a very kind spirit, always having a kind thing to say about anyone. She was a very independent woman, yet very appreciative of any help or kindness she received. Alice was an avid fisherman, and enjoyed hunting, camping, gardening, doing carpentry, and reading. She, above all, loved her family and friends. Every moment she spent with them was special to her. Alice would spend hours playing pinochle, always willing to play for "just a few more minutes."

Alice was preceded in death by her parents; her husband Clarence; and a sister, Frankie Bell.

She is survived by one son, Keith Soderstrom and wife, Dana, of Kalispell; one daughter, Ruth Soderstrom, of Kalispell, and her friend, Sam McTaggart, of Washington; seven grandchildren, John Syth, Rick Syth and wife, Cindy, Kim Buchholtz and husband, Lonnie, and Randy Dennison, all of Kalispell, and Sherry Olsen and husband, Terry of Spangle, Wash., Scott Soderstrom and wife, Cary, of Spokane, and Libby Kestelli and husband, Akin, of St. Joseph, Mich.; 12 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild; one sister, Joan Strong of Kalispell; brother-in-law, Lloyd "Bud" Soderstrom and wife, Lucille, of Idaho; and sister-in-law, Gladys Koford and husband, Vic, of Kalispell.



Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. on Friday at Johnson Mortuary Chapel with Pastor Tom Glatts of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church officiating. Burial will follow at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery. Visitation will be on Thursday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Johnson Mortuary.

The family suggests memorial contributions be made to the Valley Adventist Christian School, 1275 Helena Flats Road, Kalispell, MT 59901; or to the Kalispell Seventh-Day Adventist Church, 1375 U.S. 93 N., Kalispell, MT 59901.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Monuary and Crematory.

Albert Vincent Solberg, 76

Albert Vincent Solberg, 76, passed away on Saturday, April 12, 2003, at the Colonial Manor in Whitefish. He had "just asked the Lord back into his life the day before."

He was born on Jan. 16, 1927, in Opheim, to Aldor Bennie and Helga Elaine (Finkenhagen) Solberg. Albert was raised and attended schools in the Richland area.

He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict and was honorably discharged in 1946.

Albert married Mary Swenson on Sept. 24, 1949. They settled in Kalispell where they raised their family. They later divorced and Albert met Henrietta Nesvacil in 1973. They were together for 28 years until her death in 2001.

Albert worked construction jobs for Kirkpatrick Construction, Merger Construction and Hamilton Construction throughout Montana and was well-regarded as a master backhoe operator. In his later years, he enjoyed woodworking and enjoyed visits from his family.

Albert was preceded in death by his parents; his brothers, Elmo,



Willis and Vern; and sisters, Beatrice and Jean.

He is survived by two daughters, Merdie Hartsoch and husband, Ron, and Nancy Solberg, all of Kalispell; one son, Duane Solberg and wife, Karen, of Anaconda; two brothers, Howard and wife, Patsy, of Richland, and Chet and wife, Marge, of Scobey; one sister, Shirley Aarthun of Sun City, Ariz.; four grandchildren, Jeff and wife, Mary, of Kalispell, Jeannie and husband, Brad, of Grand Junction, Colo., and Jessica and Emille of Anaconda; five great-grandchildren, Jordyn, Heather, Kyler, Cody and Cassidy; and his numerous nieces and nephews, and extended family.

In accordance with Albert's wishes memorial services will not be held at this time. However, a family graveside urn burial will take place with Pastor Ron Youde of Central Bible Church officiating during the Solberg family reunion on July 19 in Kalispell.

The family suggests memorial gifts be given to Lamplighter House, 410 Windward Way, Kalispell, MT, care of Candace Powell.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

Lucille 'Luci' Sorkness, 68

Lucille "Luci" Sorkness, 68, was born in Belcourt, N.D., on May 9, 1935. "She left us" on Nov. 17, 2003.

Luci was a longtime Montana resident. She moved her family to the Kalispell area in 1977 where she worked at Boisvert's Resort.



Luci was preceded in death by her infant son, Richard Hood, in 1959 and her eldest son, D.J. Hood, in 1999.

Luci is survived by her children Reba Freese of Colorado, Jr. Hood of Kila, Robin Holt of Kalispell, Audrey Smith of Kalispell and Tom Sorkness of Kalispell; and her grandchildren, Nikki Sorkness, Tiffany Sorkness, Chanelle Shipman, T.J. Sorkness,

Christopher Hood and Keith Hood; and other family and friends. She will be missed by many.

Any donations should be made to the Dialysis Patient Fund in Kalispell which she always worked hard to raise money for.

Services will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, Nov. 28, at St. Matthew's Catholic Church, 600 First Ave. West, Kalispell.

Chester H. Souther, 85

Chester H. Souther, 85, passed away on Friday, Sept. 19, 2003, at Brendan House in Kalispell.

He was born Jan. 3, 1918, in Radville, Saskatchewan, to Horatio W. and Remina A. (Boen) Souther. Chester's family moved to North Dakota where he was raised with a brother and two sisters.

Chester served in the United States Army during World War II, being honorably discharged in 1945. He was a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Chester and Dorothy I. Greenfield were united in marriage on March 10, 1948, in Lignite, N.D. He then began his educational journey. Chester attended Minot State Teacher's College where he obtained his teaching degree. His teaching career began at a country school in Diamond Township, N. D. He later served as a teacher and administrator of the Lignite Public School. He returned to college and received his Master of Science prior to continuing his career in teaching at Libby, where he taught



from 1968 until his retirement in 1980.

Chester was preceded in death by his parents and a brother Orville.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 57 years, Dorothy I. Souther, of Kalispell; his seven children, Dennis Souther and his wife, Valerie, Donna Maupin and her husband, Robert, all of Libby, Sharon Boutillier and her husband, Steve, of Great Falls, Ian Habeck and her husband, Bruce, of Monument, Colo., Kim Souther and his wife, Val, of Kalispell, Brent Souther and his wife, Lynette, of Lakewood, Colo., and Brad Souther and his wife, Danielle, of Trimble, Mo.; there are 23 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren; and two sisters, Helen Volberg and Alvina Greenfield, both of North Dakota.

Memorial services for Chester Souther will be held 2:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 25, 2003, at the Church of Creston. The Rev. Darold Reiner will officiate. Urn burial will be in the Bethany Lutheran Cemetery in Lignite, N.D.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

Helen M. Sowl, 79

Helen M. Sowl, 79, "entered into rest" on May 11, 2003, in Spokane.

Helen was born on Aug. 28, 1923, in Casper, Wyo., to George and Rachael Proctor.

On Sept. 1, 1951, in Spokane, Helen married George E. Sowl.

She is survived by her husband, George; two sons, Edward Sowl, and son-in-law, Lou Pajnich, both of Columbia Falls; three daughters, Allyson Morris, Vicki Osburn, and Jeanne Nevarro, all of Spokane; sister, Jean Sargent of Stockton, Calif.; 11 grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren; and nephews, Terry Snyder and Teddy Turner of Modesto, Calif.

Helen was preceded in death by her daughter, Chris Pajnich.

She sang professionally in

Spokane in the 1940s, and performed church solos and sang in various choirs through the years.

Helen worked for the Glacier National Park superintendent's office from 1969 to 1974, and the Lake Mead National Recreation Area superintendent's office from 1975 to 1978.

Helen also enjoyed working as a Sunday school teacher and choir director at Our Savior's Lutheran in Columbia Falls. She also enjoyed volunteering at the hospital in Yuma, Ariz.

Memorial services were held at the Riverside Memorial Park Mausoleum on May 15.

Memorial contributions may be made to Holy Family Hospital Foundation, Oncology Department.

Raymond Earl Spady, 74

Raymond Earl Spady, 74, died May 14, 2003, at St. John's Lutheran Hospital in Libby.

He was in the Army reserves until 1956. He retired from Champion in 1991, after working 38 1/2 years there.

He is survived by his wife, Doloris, of Libby; and his children, Vern Byington of

Columbia Falls, Donna Siefke of Newberg, Ore., Everett Byington of Beaverton, Ore., and Stuart Spady of Libby.

Services will be 2 p.m. Monday at the City of Libby Cemetery. Visitation will be from 1 to 8 p.m. today and until noon Monday at the Nelson & Vial Funeral Home.

Charles Elmer Sprague, 68

Charles Elmer Sprague, age 68, treasured husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, surrounded by loved ones, passed away in his home in



Kalispell, Oct. 29, 2003 after a long and courageous battle with cancer. He was born May 19, 1935, in Poplar, to Edward Rex and Estella Sprague.

He graduated in 1953 from Wolf Point High School. He met Lorraine Hermanson in 1952, they were married in Wolf Point on July 24, 1954. Over the next 11 years their family grew to include five sons and three daughters. After serving many years in civil service, Charles and Lorraine settled in Kalispell in 1969. Charles was employed and managed the Lakeside Air Force Base Commissary until its closure in the late 1970s. He then worked and managed the state liquor store until his retirement.

Charles loved the outdoors. He enjoyed fishing, camping and hunting. When at home he enjoyed woodworking. Charles was a lover of life and he valued his family. His beautiful face and

smile will truly be missed. We all love and miss him.

He was preceded in death by a son, Randy Lee Sprague, his parents, and three brothers, James, Rex and Jack Sprague.

Charles is now survived by his loving wife of 49 years, Lorraine Sprague, his children and spouses: Darcy Chandler and husband Don, Tracy Gronley and husband Brad, Kellie Hattel and husband Dean all of Kalispell; Steve Sprague and wife Sandy of Polson, Doug Sprague and wife Cheryl of Sedro Wooley, Wash., Michael Sprague and wife Debbie, and Charles Edward (Rusty) Sprague all of Boise, Idaho; with 13 grandchildren, Monte, Jason and Brandon Smith, Katie Sprague; Shawn and Carry Sprague; Christopher and Angela Sprague; Rachelle Gronley; Jacob and Matthew Hattel and Samantha and Karly Sprague. Also surviving are five great grandchildren, Brady and Nathaniel Smith; Jayden Smith; and Jacob and Caelus Hattel and a very supportive sister-in-law, Lynn Hermanson.

Memorial services for Charles Elmer Sprague will be held Nov. 10, 2003 at 2 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church. Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary & Crematory.

Muriel Esther McNeil Sperry, 85

Muriel Esther McNeil Sperry, age 85, died Friday, Aug. 29, 2003, at Immanuel Lutheran Home, in Kalispell.



She was born with the spring on March 16, 1918, the second of four children to Ray and Esther (Melander) McNeil, homesteaders on the wind-blown eastern Montana prairie near Wolf Point.

There she grew up, strong in body and in character, through hard work and the care-filled guidance of loving parents. The joy of her young life was riding horse bareback, wind in her face, across the vastness of that open land.

With graduation from Wolf Point High School, Muriel found her way to Western Montana Normal School (College) in Dillon, and later earned her B.A. degree in education from the University of Montana. The remainder of her family moved to the Flathead Valley to farm in the Helena Flats area.

It was during her first teaching position and while boarding with the Sperry family at Corvallis that she met Paul, the oldest son, a handsome, independent cowboy. They married Sept. 23, 1940, and soon after Muriel drove her husband to Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., drove back to her family in Kalispell, and busied herself teaching school at Helena Flats School, enduring four anxiety filled years of World War II without him.

When the war ended, Paul returned home. They remained together, through thick and thin. They built a home and raised four children.

Muriel's occupation as well as her passion was teaching. She retired in 1980 after twenty years in the second grade classroom at Evergreen School. It was her belief that if one could read and comprehend, one could do anything! She read voraciously, retained a wealth of knowledge and shared it freely. She put great value on the priceless: Loving, unwavering faith in and fellowship with her God who faithfully saw her through each day of her life; harmonious relationships and the respect of friends and family; a glorious blooming flower garden or Christmas cactus, rich soil, a loyal lap dog (regardless of size), a good mouser, a gentle mare, and good music.

Though not particularly funny herself, she knew what was funny and to the end maintained a lively sense of humor. Her life was well-lived and she died as she'd lived — with faith, dignity, and grace.

Muriel gave a lifetime of service to her church, Central Bible Church of Kalispell, where she and Paul were original members. She taught Sunday school, Bible stud-

ies, and was active with the Missionary Circle.

Survivors include her sister, Edna Munter, and her husband, Dallas, of Kalispell; her children, Wilma Anderson, and her husband Barry, of Anamosa, Iowa, Barbara Stuart, and her husband, Chandler, of Billings, Alice Lausen, and her husband, David, of Kalispell, and Jim Sperry, and his wife, Connie, of Ennis. There are 13 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Paul, in 1980, her parents, a sister and brother-in-law, Gertrude and Clarence Barnes, a brother and sister-in-law, Delbert and Bonnie McNeil, and an infant daughter.

Graveside services for Muriel will be Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2003, at Glacier Memorial Gardens at 10 a.m. immediately followed by a memorial celebration of her life at 11 a.m. at Central Bible Church, Kalispell. The Rev. Ron Youde will officiate. Visitation will be held Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2003, from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. at Johnson Mortuary.

The family suggests memorial contributions be sent to the Immanuel Lutheran Home, 185 Crestline Drive, Kalispell, 59901, the Big Sky Bible Camp, 501 McCaffery Rd., Bigfork, 59911, or the Central Bible Church, 902 First Avenue East, Kalispell, 59901.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

Emily Spicher, 77

Emily Spicher, 77, passed away Friday, May 23, 2003, at the Brendan House in Kalispell after a short battle with cancer.

Emily was born on Dec. 4, 1926, in Garsten, England, to Antonio and Sarah Bellis.

She met Richard Spicher in Southport, England, during World War II and they were married on Sept. 22, 1945, in Ainsdale, England. Richard returned to Hingham, Mont., in 1946, to set up their home and five months later, Emily arrived by train in Havre after traveling by ship to New York City. She was amongst the first group of English war brides to come through Ellis Island to become American citizens.

She left a bombed and devastated England to live in a small apartment in Hingham, with electricity but no running water or indoor plumbing.

In her nearly 30 years in Hingham, she gave birth to three children, Georgia Ann Bailey, Corinne Fae Peterson and Kim Patricia Spicher. She supported Richard in his farming and fertilizer adventures and eventually retired to Whitefish in 1975.

She enjoyed dancing, golf, bridge, arranging flowers and especially entertaining.

She was preceded in death by a daughter, Corinne, in 1994, and a daughter, Georgia, in 1996.

She is survived by husband, Richard Spicher; a daughter, Kim Spicher; grandchildren, Leslie Bai-

ley, Lisa May and husband, Dr. Mike May; and sons-in-law, Claude Bailey and Dick Peterson.

Visitation will be 4 to 8 p.m. Monday, May 26, at the Austin Funeral Home in Whitefish. Funeral services will be Tuesday, 1 p.m., at Christ Lutheran Church in Whitefish with the Rev. John Bent officiating. Burial will follow at the Whitefish Cemetery under the direction of the Austin Funeral Home in Whitefish.

The family suggests that any memorials be sent to the Brendan House at 350 Conway Drive, Kalispell, MT 59901.

William F. Big Spring Jr., 62

William F. Big Spring Jr., 62, of East Glacier, died July 26, 2003, at Benefis East in Great Falls.

He is survived by his mother, Kathleen Big Spring of East Glacier; daughter, Julie Ann Keenan of Kalispell; and son, William F. Big Spring III of East Glacier.

Rosary will be 7 p.m. today at the Church of the Ascension with a wake at the East Glacier Women's Club afterward. Funeral mass will be held 10 a.m. Saturday at the Church of the Ascension in East Glacier. Cremation has taken place.

Bruce Leroy Springer, 60

Bruce Leroy Springer, 60, died on Saturday, March 29, 2003, at his home in Kalispell.

He is survived by his daughter, Heather Evanoff of Puyallup, Wash.

At his request, cremation will take place and no services will be held at this time.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

Francis C. 'Barney' Sproul, 77

Francis C. "Barney" Sproul, 77, passed away Sunday, Sept. 14, 2003, at Brendan House in Kalispell. Barney was born Feb. 9, 1926, in Kane, Wyo., to Fred and Irma (Haney) Sproul.

Barney was raised and attended school in Kane, Wyo., and Pryor Creek, Mont. His family moved near Billings in 1935, then to the Flathead in 1943 to a ranch in Star Meadows.

He was drafted into the U.S. Army in January 1952 and served in the Korean Conflict until October 1953, at which time he was honorably discharged.

In 1956, Barney married Dolly Fisher in Sandpoint, Idaho. They were married for 46 years.

Barney worked as a rancher and logger until 1959 when he moved to Great Falls and worked

at Rain and Ranch Irrigation Co. and later at Graham and Ross Feed Co.

Francis and Dolly then moved to Bellevue, Wash., where he worked in construction. In December 1973, they moved back to Kalispell where he worked at the Flathead County Nursing Home for 12 years until his retirement for health reasons.

After retirement, they lived in Arizona during the winters for five years. Francis enjoyed camping and fishing.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Frank in 1969 and Lewis in 2002.

Francis is survived by his wife, Dolly, of Kalispell and a few local relatives.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Beryl E. Stacy, 67

Beryl E. Stacy, 67, died Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2003, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center from natural causes.

He is survived by his wife, Phoebe Stacy of Rexford; sons, Doug Stacy of Eureka, and Den-

nis Stacy of Rexford; and daughter, Terri Leatham of Portland.

Services will be 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 15, at the Rexford School. Local arrangements are by the Nelson & Vial Funeral Home in Eureka.

Elsie 'Annie' Stafford, 72

Elsie "Annie" Stafford, 72, passed away on Monday, Nov. 17, 2003, at Brendan House in Kalispell.



Ann was born on Nov. 3, 1931, in Two Harbors, Minn., to Charles and Virginia Lung. She graduated from Central High School in 1949, then attended Northwest University for Business.

Ann had owned a newspaper, the Flathead Shadow, restaurants and beauty salons.

She had four daughters and one son. Annie moved to the Flathead Valley in 1990 after coming here to visit her aunt.

She loved photography and had done most of the pictures for her own newspaper. She was a race car driver, had been the public relations person for the Raceway Park, was a board member of the Northwest Montana Historical Society, a member of the Kalispell Police Association and was a member of the Glacier Camera Club.

She was preceded in death by her parents, two daughters, Carolann Payne and Sherilee Scharba.

She is survived by her long-time companion, Keith Robinson of Kalispell; daughters, Laura Jernigan of San Antonio, and Virginia Beeler of Raleigh, N.C.; one son, Leonard Hardman of Kalispell; three grandchildren, Stevie Ritger, Meshell and Thomas Jackson Jr. and Michael and Feather Larson; one aunt, Violet H. Webster; and cousins, Judy Godfrey, Charles Juntunen and Art Juntunen, all of Kalispell.

Memorials are requested to

Flathead Valley Community College, Keith and Annie Scholarship Fund, Flathead FFA or H.E. Robinson Memorial Scholarship.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

Olga Geneive Stahlberg, 96

Olga Geneive Stahlberg, 96, passed away on Saturday, June 28, 2003, at the Brendan House in Kalispell. She was born on Dec. 26, 1906, in Strathcona, Minn., to Ingvald and Henrietta (Lorenson) Sands.



Olga received her early education in Baudette, Minn., until the sixth grade and finished through the eighth grade in Strathcona, Minn.

She worked various jobs in restaurants and logging camps until marrying Harold W. Stahlberg on Dec. 13, 1924, in Strathcona. The family farmed in Strathcona except for a short time in Plentywood. Olga worked at home with the farm and kids until 1944 when she and Harold separated.

Olga then brought the seven younger children of nine to live with her mother in Kalispell. Olga did seasonal work with Art Small farms doing potato grading for many years. She also worked at the Kalispell General Hospital for a couple of years before retiring. Olga continued to work in her garden and with her milk cows for many years after she retired.

Olga was very devoted to her family and church. She spent many hours canning and quilting

treasures for her family.

Olga was preceded in death by one daughter, Yvonne "Bunny" Belston; one grandson; two great-grandsons; and one great-granddaughter.

She is survived by two daughters, Muriel Edwards of Kalispell, and Fern Svoboda of Badger, Minn.; six sons, Harold "Bud" Stahlberg, Clark and Rose Stahlberg, Bryan and Joni Stahlberg, and Gene and Lila Stahlberg, all of Kalispell, Kendall Stahlberg of Columbia Falls, and Gordan and Marie Stahlberg of Gervais, Ore.; one brother, Earl and Liz Sands of Whitefish; four sisters, Gladys Milam, Beatrice Gordan, and Eunice Johnson and husband Clyde, all of Kalispell, and Clarice Hewitt of Palm Springs, Calif. She is also survived by 41 grandchildren, 97 great-grandchildren and 74 great-great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. today, July 1, at Johnson Mortuary. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday, July 2, at the Christian Center with Pastor John Weaver officiating. Burial will follow at the Glacier Memorial Gardens.

The family suggests memorial gifts be given to the Christian Center/Assembly of God, 255 Summit Ridge Dr. Kalispell, MT 59901.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary & Crematory.

Jack F. Stamper, 67

Jack F. Stamper, 67, of Eureka, died Saturday, May 31, 2003, at his home in Eureka from natural causes. He had worked as an outfitter and owned Valley Pizza.

Survivors include his wife, Mary Lou Stamper of Eureka; two daughters, Brenda Oates

and Holly VanBemmel, both of Eureka; and his father, Hobert Stamper of Kentucky.

Graveside services will be at 1 p.m. Thursday, June 5 at the Tobacco Valley Cemetery. Local arrangements are by the Nelson & Vial Funeral Home in Eureka.

Robert W. "Bob" Stanley died peacefully in his sleep in the first hours of Saturday morning, Aug. 9, 2003; he had asbestosis.

Bob was gentle man who loved life with a deep joy and unwavering optimism. He loved sweets, people, his country, a cold beer, fishing, music, and sports (especially "his Cardinals.") He was a gifted storyteller who could make anyone laugh. He had a special gift of saying just what was needed to set things right and make you smile.

He was not envious, but always remained grateful for all he had and knew he was a rich man in life despite his many challenges and hardships. Most of all, he loved his family. His wife, Evelyn, was the love of his life.

Bob was born in 1922, in Minneapolis, to Robert Allen Stanley and Ruth Belle Anderson Stanley. His brothers were George (now deceased), Donald, and Earl. His parents divorced in the early 30s, and he later moved with his mother and brothers to Fargo, N.D. As teenagers, he and his brother, Don, moved to Libby to live with their uncle; members of that older generation having arrived in Libby prior to World War I, to work for the mill, and to pan for gold.

"Dad" graduated from Libby High School in 1942, and, in 1943, entered the Army. He fought with the 185th Infantry in the South Pacific, surviving the beach landings and jungle warfare on Guadalcanal and in the Philippines. He was very proud of his World War II experience and had many medals including the Purple Heart.

After the war and a stint in Korea, he came back to Libby, where he met and married a fourth grade school teacher named Evelyn Schow. The following year their first daughter, Lynn, was born, and two months later they bought the house on California Avenue—a small, quirky house that he loved and was never inclined to move from (and never did.) His second daughter, Karen, was born in 1954.

"Dad" worked for a number of years as parts manager at Libby Motors, but the job that became his career and calling was as manager of the Libby office of Montana's Employment Service. His work offered many opportunities for him to do the things he valued most as well as the things he excelled at. He looked at every person to find what was best in them, and enjoyed counseling people to help them find the right line of work.

He was especially proud of the work he did when the Libby Dam was being built, establishing training camps for the many different kinds of jobs that were needed. His daughters were especially proud of his efforts to educate employers around town about "equal pay for

equal work — a principle he believed in. He also went to bat for disabled people who needed work, and spent time with both workers and employers to overcome the hurdles. He worked hard, and it can be said that he truly entered into the spirit of his work.

Bob and Evelyn reached out to people in distress or trouble, often spending hours just listening; but also went further, opening their home to those in need. Bob will be remembered for his sense of humor, his gentleness, and his love of people.

His granddaughters, Tondi, Tracy and Molly, will always remember "their Gaga" for his happiness and funny stories. He always made sure they had enough candy. He loved them deeply and his greatest joy was watching them grow into successful young women. His special joy was the recent birth of his great-granddaughter, Erin Sofie. "We will always cherish that he had time to hold her and hear her say 'Hi Gaga'."

"Dad's" story wouldn't be complete without the telling of how he managed to survive ill health for over 30 years, despite dire predictions of his imminent demise. Through all the surgeries and difficult recoveries he remained an optimist, with his sense of humor intact. Looking back, he had one body blow after another, from cardiovascular disease to prostate cancer, and finally a diagnosis of asbestosis — but he was firm in his determination to live, and his knowledge of all he had to live for. None of his ailments made him bitter, nor did he ever complain. He just got better, every time, except this one last time.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Evelyn, in 1993; and his brother, George, in 1996.

"Dad" is survived by two of his brothers, Don and Earl; his daughters, Lynn Stanley of Kalispell, and Karen Wickersham; son-in-law, Jack Wickersham of Missoula; granddaughters, Tondi (Roush) Petersen, and her husband, Gunnar, Tracy Roush, and Molly Swan; and great-granddaughter, Erin Sofie Petersen.

"Dad and mom" belonged to the United Methodist Church in Libby where they were active members for many years. "Dad" also belonged to the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Aug. 15, at the Nelson & Vial Funeral Home, with Pastor Robert Foote of the Methodist Church presiding. Following interment services with military honors at Libby Cemetery, there will be a reception at the VFW Banquet Room. Visitation hours are from 3 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 14.

Memorials will be welcomed in "Dad's" name to the Libby Asbestos Medical Plan, the C.A.R.D. Clinic or the Rural Health Outreach.

Thonia 'Toni' Stanley, 89

Thonia "Toni" Stanley, 89, passed away at St. Joseph's Care Center in Spokane early Sunday, June 22, 2003. After a remarkable recovery from a stroke two years ago, she died in her sleep after a brief illness this spring.

She will be missed by her family and all who knew her for her strength, determination and sense of humor.

Toni was born in Grygla, Minn., Jan. 2, 1914. She was the second of seven children born to hardworking Norwegian immigrants.

Being an independent woman, she left the farm and worked in town during her 20s. She married Harold Stanley June 1, 1941, and after the war, they came west from Bemijdi, Minn., to Columbia Falls with a group of people to start Plum Creek Lumber.

In 1952, they moved to Missoula with their three daughters to operate their own business, Sherwood Cabins & Trailer Court.

In 1966, after a brief "retirement," they purchased and operated the Tops Motel in Plains until 1970, when they retired for the final time to Hot Springs.

Toni was preceded in death by her parents, two brothers, three sisters, and her husband.

She is survived by her sister, Margaret Berglund; and numerous nieces and nephews. She leaves behind daughters, Joyce, Shirley, and Marilyn; two grandsons, Mark and Jeff Johnson and the "new" light of her life, Aidan, her first great-grandson.

A private burial took place on June 27 in Plains alongside her husband, Harold.

Robert Statum, 76

Robert Statum, 76, "went to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" on Aug. 6, 2003.

He was born in Dustin, Okla., on May 19, 1927. After joining the U.S. Air Force in 1947, he spent 26 years serving his country in Korea, Germany, Thailand and numerous stations here in the U.S. In 1959 he helped open the radar site on Blacktail Mountain at Lakeside.

On Sept. 11, 1954, he married Roy Ellen Barton of Chelan, Wash. They moved to Columbia Falls, in 1975, after he retired from the Air Force.

He was very active in the First Baptist Church of Columbia Falls



where he served as treasurer and trustee for many years. He enjoyed working in his garden, fishing and hunting.

He was preceded in death by his father, Charles, and mother, Lee, and is survived by his wife, Roy Ellen, and son, Charles, of Columbia Falls, as well as numerous relatives in California, North Carolina, Oklahoma, and Washington.

Visitation will be held 1 to 8 p.m. today at the Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls. Funeral services will be held 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 12, at the First Baptist Church in Columbia Falls, Rev. Jerry Buchanan officiating. Burial, with military honors by the United Veterans of the Flathead, will follow at Woodlawn Cemetery in Columbia Falls.

Maye J. Steig, 83

Maye J. Steig, 83, of Bowman, N.D., died Sunday, Aug. 31, 2003, at the Southwest Healthcare Center in Bowman.

Survivors include two sons, Floyd Steig of Whitefish, and Roger Steig of Rugby, N.D.; and daughter, Lynn Homelvig of Amidon, N.D.

Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 4, at the Bowman Lutheran Church with the Rev. Becca Krogstad officiating. Burial will follow the service in the Bowman Cemetery. A family service will be at 7 p.m. today at Krebsbach Funeral Service Chapel in Bowman.

Derrill Elmore Stein, 78

Derrill Elmore Stein, 78, formerly of Kalispell, died on April 19, 2003, in Eugene, Ore.

He is survived by one son, Victor, of Salem, Ore. At his request, no services will be held.

William E. Stein, 85

William E. Stein, 85, of Rancho Santa Fe, Calif., died Oct. 12, 2003 in San Diego County. He was born on Oct. 1, 1918, in Scarsdale, N.Y. He is educated at the Fessenden School in Massachusetts and attended the University of California at Berkeley.

He returned from England and worked in the family business, A. Stein & Co. in New York and Chicago, until the company was sold in 1961. He then joined his brother in Riverside County where he grew citrus and avocados for over 40 years. He retired in Rancho Santa Fe.

He discovered Whitefish in 1976 and was a regular at Brothers Corral, Stumptown and The Buffalo Cafe.

He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Patricia; his sister, Mary Sherwood of Naples, N.Y.; his children, Patricia August and husband Kenneth of Los Angeles, William E. Stein Jr. and wife Karen of Corona, Calif., Kenneth

Stein and wife Cindy of Whitefish, William Stern and wife Kathy of Tucson, Ariz.; 12 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Donations in memory of William Stein may be sent to the Seaweed Canyon Cardiac Physiology Laboratory, c/o UCSD, 9500 Gillman Dr., La Jolla, CA 92093-0940, payable to the "UCSD Foundation, #1219."

Payton Hadley Steinbeck, 15

Payton Hadley Steinbeck, 15, of Kalispell, passed away on Oct. 6, 2003, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center.

He was born in Sacramento, Calif., on April 5, 1988. Payton grew up in Enterprise, Ore., where he attended school through the ninth grade. In addition to being an honor student, Payton was a leader and never knew a stranger. He was always surrounded by friends, whether they were shooting hoops, playing their guitars or listening to music.

He loved all types of sports; he participated in cross-country, football, basketball, track and golf. He also played baseball and was selected to both the Little League and Babe Ruth all-star teams. Although Payton was very competitive, he was a great sport. Win or lose, he always had a smile on his face.

Payton spent a great deal of time with his family. They loved

traveling to such places as Florida, Mexico, and visiting extended family members in Alaska, Arizona and Colorado. They also enjoyed many activities together, such as snowboarding, water skiing, camping, hunting and fishing.

Payton is survived by his parents, Nathan and Klista Steinbeck, and twin sister, Kelsey, all of Kalispell; his grandparents, John and Margaret Steinbeck of Kenai, Alaska, and Bill and Judie Stark of Hermiston, Ore.; and his great-grandparents, Don and Jennie Smith of Sun City West, Ariz., and Pete and Betty Trump of Elgin, Ore. Payton also left behind many aunts, uncles and cousins.

His grandfather, Roger Nedrow preceded him in death.

Memorial services will be held at 3:30 pm. today, at the Christian Center, 255 Summit Ridge Drive in Kalispell.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Rita Steinke, 57

Rita Steinke, 57, passed away on Saturday, July 5, 2003, at her home in Kalispell.

She was born on Feb. 17, 1946, in Kalispell, to Matt and Marcela (Duffy) Strack.

Rita graduated from Sacred Heart Academy in 1964 in Missoula. She worked at Consolidated Electrical Distributors for almost 25 years.

Her interests include crafts, painting, sewing and remodeling. She also loved horses, camping and was a wonderful grandmother. Rita contributed much to the community with her generosity and kind deeds. She will be greatly missed by everyone.

Rita was preceded in death by her brother, Gregory Strack on Sept. 2, 1986.

She was very fond of her pets, Scooter and Bandit.

She is survived by her husband, Robert Steinke of Kalispell; two daughters, Wendy and Scott



Copeland, and Angie and Derek Nelson, all of Kalispell; a stepdaughter, Amy Steinke of Missoula; her parents, Mathias and Marcella Strack of Kalispell; her brother, Dick Strack of Tucson, Ariz.; three sisters, Sharon and Betty of Missoula, and Kay from Sydney, Australia; her mother-in-law, Helen Steinke of Kalispell; sister-in-law, Bonnie of Portland; numerous nieces and nephews; and three grandchildren, Luis, Emily and Casey, all of Kalispell.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Friday, July 11, at the Easthaven Baptist Church with Pastor Daniel Lambert officiating. Burial will follow at the C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery. Visitation will be from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, July 10, at Johnson Mortuary.

The family suggests memorial gifts be given to the Humane Society, 43 Woodland Park Dr., Kalispell, MT 59901.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

Della D. Paradis Stevens, 81

Della D. Paradis Stevens, 81, passed away on Tuesday, Nov. 25, 2003, at Heritage Place in Kalispell.

Della was born on Aug. 24, 1922, in Maddoch, Mont., to Laurnce and Adeline Luzon Paradis. She was the second of five girls, and five boys. She attended grade school and high school in Flaxville.

As a teenager, she worked at a soda fountain in Scobey. It was there she met William "Eddy" Stevens. They were married on Della's 21st birthday at St. Charles Catholic Church in Opheim. They had five boys and one daughter.

Della worked for the Farmer's Union in Opheim from 1950 until 1978. She owned her own restaurant from 1978 to 1980, and was a resort manager in Whitefish from 1980 until 1995.

Her husband, Eddy, passed away in 1978.

She was very active in St. Charles Catholic Church in Whitefish for many years. She enjoyed golfing, bowling and traveling. She dearly loved her family and grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband Eddy; one daughter, Idel; and one son, Joseph.

She is survived by four sons, Larry, Patrick, Donald and Mark; and grandchildren, Jessica Stevens, Joseph Stevens and Hannah Stevens.

Mass of Christian Burial will be at 1 p.m. Friday, Nov. 28, at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Whitefish, with the Rev. Charles Roman officiating. Burial will be at Holy Family Catholic Cemetery in Glentana at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 2.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home caring for the family.

Imogene 'Jean' Stinger, 78

Imogene "Jean" Stinger, passed away Nov. 25, 2003, at the age of 78. Per her request, no services will be held.

A long time Whitefish resident, Ima Jean Mertens was born Nov. 23, 1925, in Iowa, later moving to Montana. She worked as a meat-cutter and later as a bartender at several Whitefish establishments until her retirement.

Survivors include her daughter and son-in-law, Linda and Richard Barthel of Woodburn, Ore.; granddaughter and husband, Anita and Thomas Patton of Santa Barbara, Calif.; grandchildren, Jeff and Jen-

ny Yeats; great-grandsons, Tyler and Brett Patton; sisters, Vivian Sandell of Eureka, Vi Jenkins, Amy Clayton and Dorothy Burchard, all of Washington; and numerous nieces and nephews, including niece and husband, Wilma and Ed James who were especially close to her; and close friend, Lillian Hawke.

She was preceded in death by her son, Leonard Yeats, in March, 2003.

Remembrances may be made to the American Cancer Society or Meals on Wheels.

Fern Montana Storey, 74

Fern Montana Storey, 74, died Wednesday, Oct. 22, 2003, at Brendan House in Kalispell.

She was born Jan. 17, 1929, in Great Falls, to Emil and Olga Louise (Olson)

Benson. She was a graduate of Great Falls High School.

Fern met and married Nolen Ray Storey in 1949 in Great Falls.

She loved to play the piano and did so as a past time as well as playing for the Salvation Army, and was the church pianist for the Bread of Life Church. She also played the accordion.

Fern loved being with her family and friends, while sharing with them in a board game, or a card game or two. She enjoyed the art of homemaking, cooking, sewing and crocheting. Fern cherished helping her son, Ron, in the raising of her twin grandsons.

Fern was preceded in death by her husband, Nolen Ray Storey, in 1993; a son in infancy; and one sister, Pearl Wilcox.

She is survived by one daughter, RaeAnne Montamat of Tulsa, Okla.; one son, Ron Storey of



Kalispell; one brother, Floyd Benson of Kalispell; one sister, June Kersey of Wolf Creek; six grandsons, Kyle, Trevor, Chad, Cameron, Derrick and Devin; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services for Fern Montana Storey will be held 2 p.m. Monday, Oct. 27, at Johnson Mortuary Chapel with Pastor Lloyd Barrie of the Bread of Life Church officiating. Burial will follow at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

Per Karl Storli, 74

Captain Per Karl Storli, 74, died on Oct. 25, 2003, in Kalispell.

Per was born on Dec. 21, 1928, in Eveness, Norway, the oldest son of Thoralf Storli and Signe Larsen. His folk come from a long line of mariners and farmers. He was the oldest of four children, attended a one-room school in the Arctic Circle, was born "with skis on his feet" and helped his father work the plough horses and milked their dairy herd. He joined the Norwegian Merchant Marine at 17 as a deck boy. Per rapidly rose through the ranks and became one of the youngest captains on the chemical tankers of the Odjfell line.

In 1966 while at sea, he met Winnifred van Twest and married her. Winnifred was from tropical Sri Lanka. In 1967 he left the ocean and became an innkeeper at the Blue and White Motel. He ran the independent family business with



an iron fist until his untimely demise.

Per loved the sea but was prepared to leave it to raise a family. He was an outdoorsman and loved the Big Sky with his dogs, pickup trucks, hunting and wide open spaces. He was a Mason and gave generously of his time and abilities to the Masonic lodge where he rose to the position of Worshipful Master of Kalispell Lodge 42.

He was preceded in death by his mother and father; his beloved son, Sturli; and brother, Thorsigurd.

He is survived by his wife, Winnifred; their children, Christopher van Twest, Trond Storli, Ann van Twest (Measure) and Grimm Storli; his sisters, Marit and Astrid Storli who reside in Norway; and grandchildren, Buckthorn Measure and Erika Storli.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 1, at Johnson's Mortuary Chapel on 525 Main Street in Kalispell.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

Nancy A. Stulc, 54

Nancy A. Stulc, 54, died at her home in Missoula on Tuesday, Nov. 25, 2003. Arrangements are pending and will be announced by Garden City Funeral Home and Crematory.

Walter F. Styler, 88

Walter F. Styler, 88, passed away Nov. 5, 2003, at the Colorado State Veterans Center in Monte Vista, Colo.

Walter was born Feb. 27, 1915, in Williams, Minn., to Frederick and Elsa Styler. He was the oldest of four sons (brothers, Karl, Herbert and Frederick) and an older sister, Elsie. He grew up on the family homestead near Williams where he began to drive a team of horses at age 8. He worked on the farm, eventually drove truck, and worked in pulp logging or whatever work was available in the area.

During the Great Depression he kept up a winter trapping circuit near Williams to help feed the family, and sometimes "rode the rails" on freight trains to seek work in neighboring cities. Canned produce from the family garden and wild game were often all they had for the table.

Walter enlisted for duty with the Army Air Corps in World War II, where he served with the 17th Bomb Group as a flight engineer and gunner. He completed 40 combat missions, many of which were flown from bases in North Africa to targets in Italy and Southern France.

Following the war, he married RosaLee Stoskopf in July of 1947. They built a home near Williams and began raising a family there.

In 1956, the family of six, (four children), loaded up their belongings and drove to Montana to seek new opportunity in an area where his brothers had previously moved. One additional daughter was born in Montana, bringing the number of children to five.

Walt became employed as a timber faller in the Condon area. In the mid-60s, he and Henry Meyer Sr. formed Lion Creek Wood Crafts and built custom log homes

in the area for about 10 years.

Walter enjoyed the company of neighbors and friends on all occasions and sometimes organized pickup softball games for kids and adults of all ages. His other interests and hobbies included hunting, fishing, exploring the mountains and woods, poetry, cribbage, dancing, and spending time with family and friends. He was an avid reader all of his life and became a master at crossword puzzles and cryptograms.

Walter continued to work in the woods until finally retiring for good at about age 70. His final years were spent in the loving care of his daughter, Kathy, and her husband, Sylvestre Rodriguez.

He had been a resident at the Colorado State Veterans Center in Monte Vista, Colo., for about one month prior to his passing.

Survivors include four daughters, Kathy and husband, Sylvestre Rodriguez, of Alamosa, Colo., Roselyn and husband, Lynn Carey, of Seeley Lake, Cindy and husband, Stan Buresh, of Fairfield, and Susan and husband, Roger Brown, of Faribault, Minn.; two sons, Jim and wife, Jennifer Styler, of Saudi Arabia, and Randy and wife, Denise Styler, of Condon; one sister, Elsie and husband, Joe Grunz, of Williams, Minn.; one brother, Herb and wife, Leona Styler, of Condon; 16 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Walter was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Frederick and Karl Styler.

Cremation has taken place per his wishes and arrangements were by Romero Funeral Home of Monte Vista, Colo. A memorial service to honor and celebrate Walter's life will be held at the Condon Community Hall in Condon, on at 2 p.m. Friday, Nov. 28.

Bill G. Suhr, 78

Bill G. Suhr, 78, of Fargo, N.D., died in his home on Friday, May 2, 2003.

Bill was born on May 8, 1924, son of Bill Sr. and Edith (Landers) Suhr, in Fargo. He attended high school at Fargo North.

In 1943, after high school, he entered the U.S. Navy and served as a Navy bomber pilot until the end of World War II. After the war, he attended college at North Dakota State University.

On June 19, 1946, Bill married Patricia Story in Fargo. After their marriage, they moved to Kalispell, where they lived for many years. They then moved to Fergus Falls, Minn., where he owned a Ford dealership for 27 years. In 1990, they moved back to Fargo, where he lived until the time of his death.

During his life, Bill was an avid

flyer, which he continued to do up until three years prior to his death.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents, Bill and Edith Suhr, and his brother-in-law Dr. Robert Story.

Bill is survived by his wife, Patricia Suhr of Fargo; one son, Thomas Suhr of Fargo; three daughters, Susan Klein and Larry, Kathy Langager and Brian, and Robin Smith and Ralph, all of Detroit Lakes, Minn.; one brother, James Suhr of Minneapolis; six grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

A private family service will be today at 2 p.m. at Hanson-Runsvold Funeral Home, in Fargo, N.D.

Burial will take place in Riverside Mausoleum in Fargo.

Donald W. Sundt, 65

Donald W. Sundt, 65, of Reno, passed away Nov. 24, 2003, at St Mary's Hospital in Reno, Nev., from cancer.

He was born March 16, 1938, in Spokane, and was raised in Kalispell.

Donald moved to Reno in the 1960s and was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Donald worked as a carpenter and building contractor before retiring, and was a member of the Carpenter Union Local 971 for over 35 years.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Dorothy and Mel Sundt; and sons, Thomas and

David Sundt.

He is survived by his wife, Helen, of 32 years; son, Jerry Slawson; daughters, Tammy and son-in-law, Steve Young, and Rose Gonzalez; grandson, Scot Tompkins; granddaughter, Angela Tompkins; great-grandson, Kaleb; brother, Melvin Sundt; and sister, Evelyn Carr.

Cremation will be held. A memorial service will be held at 10 a.m. today, at Walton Funeral Home, 875 W. Second Street, Reno, Nev.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 6490 S. McCarran Blvd., Suite 40, Reno, NV 89509-6125.

Grace Svensrud, 88

Grace Svensrud, 88, formerly of Columbia Falls, died Friday, May 2, 2003, at Livingston Memorial Hospital.

Grace is survived by her son, Arnold Svensrud of Wilsall; and foster daughter, Shirley Klatt, of Bozeman.

Funeral services will be held on Tuesday at 2:30 p.m. at Dokken-Nelson's Sunset Chapel with a coffee hour following. Interment will be on Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. in Glacier Memorial Gardens in Kalispell.

Dr. Alfred Victor Swanberg died peacefully in the evening of May 12, 2003, in the company of his family at his flathead Lake home on Caroline Point. Three



weeks earlier he had celebrated his 80th birthday. He had been ill with progressive emphysema since his retirement in late 1998. His passing leaves a hole in many lives.

A devoted husband, father of five children, grandfather to nine, and great-grandfather to one, he practiced medicine in northwest Montana, predominantly in Kalispell for nearly 50 years before his retirement in 1998.

Born in Great Falls, to Alfred Victor Swanberg Sr. and Clara Moore Swanberg on April 22, 1923, he was the fourth son of five children. He was raised and educated through the 12th grade and graduated from Great Falls High School in 1941. In high school, he was active in scientific endeavors, and often conducted basic science experiments in his own lab at the family home. In his youth, he often drove with his father around eastern Montana on business, as well as spending most summers vacationing with his family in and around the Kalispell area where his paternal grandparents, Hjalmar and Helga Swanberg had been early-day pioneers and where his father grew up.

It was during these formative years that he grew to love the Montana landscape, and came to know the back roads of the state with great familiarity.

For his college years he attended the University of Colorado in Boulder and the University of Montana. It was in Boulder he met his life-long companion and future wife, Delores McAninch, an organic chemist. They were married on June 11, 1944.

Dr. Swanberg graduated from medical school at the University of Illinois in Chicago where he received his MD degree. He did subsequent training at Cook County Hospital in Chicago and in Kansas at the University of Kansas Affiliated Hospitals, St. Francis in Wichita, Kan. From 1950 until 1953, he was able to come back home to his beloved Montana and further his training under the guidance of the gifted surgeon, Dr. Hal Blegen, at the Western Montana Clinic in Missoula.

This new stage of his life was interrupted when he was drafted to serve in the Korean War in 1953 with the U.S. Army. He served proudly as the post surgeon at Camp A.P. Hill in Virginia and was honorably discharged in the summer of 1955.

He returned briefly to Missoula but left that summer to open practice in Kalispell with his friend and associate, Clyde Fredericksen, MD.

Each move in his career meant a new addition to the family. Finally happily settled, he and his wife

raised their five children in the Kalispell home before moving to their lake home permanently in 1978 when their youngest graduated from high school.

Throughout his life, he explored ways to deepen his appreciation of his Montana heritage and the great landscape he knew as home. As a father, he often took his children hiking in Glacier Park, and like any good Montanan, he had a good share of bear stories (many of them true!) to share around campfires.

In 1964, after taking over his family's property on Flathead Lake, he and his wife and five children planted the first segment of what was to become another great passion of his — sweet cherries. He dedicated the orchard on Point Caroline to the memory of his parents. He recalled with amusement the view that many shared at that time that sweet cherries could not be grown on the western shores of the lake.

He was eloquent in his view that no one owns land, but is merely a steward for future generations, accepting responsibility for its preservation and conservation. He lamented the view of those who sought only gain from the natural world with no regard for the impact of their actions on both the landscape and the community. This passionate view of his was best expressed in his visionary work toward lake quality improvement on Flathead Lake, which led to the development of a sewer district on the northwest end of the lake. He proudly served on that board for many years and always commented that a sewer project was one where everyone could have an input!

Another passion of his was flying. Introduced to flying by his son Chris, he became an avid pilot and managed to clock more than 500 hours. He flew around the United States, visiting children off at college and taking his younger family to visit places around the Pacific Northwest.

He also loved a good road trip, and made many trips around the United States by car throughout his life with various family members at different stages of his life. He wanted to visit all 50 states in his lifetime, but fell short of that goal.

He loved the practice of medicine, and was particularly fascinated with the challenges — medical, social, and psychological — of primary care. He devoted himself to building a large practice, and is fondly remembered by many people for his compassion, his keen intelligence and cutting edge medical judgment, and the consideration he showed people of all walks of life. Long past the day when it was fashionable to do so, he continued to provide house calls to his patients. His children all have cherished memories of riding along with him on calls throughout the valley. Driving with him throughout the region, he would often recall house calls he had made to homes 30, even 40 years

earlier. In addition to his focus on his practice, he also showed great leadership in the local hospital, and served on all committees, was chief of staff twice and served for almost 20 years on the Professional Care Committee. He was medical director of Inmanuel Lutheran Home at the time of his retirement. He often commented that the most powerful tools a doctor had were his ears and his eyes.

He was an avid chess player. In the early 1960s, he helped found the Kalispell Chess Club, and he, his wife, and son, Chris, won many trophies in the local and state tournaments. He continued his love of chess, played chess by mail for years with various people, and in his later years had a chess computer program. He could identify chess jets by the year they were released. It gave him great pleasure to teach someone to play chess, and he passed on this knowledge to several of his grandchildren.

An avid reader of mysteries and history, and also a writer of mystery stories and novels, he published his first book, "Mission at Rangorwich," in the mid-1970s. Later in his life he wrote two more novels, and was working on a screenplay to his first novel at the time of his illness this spring.

One amazing accomplishment of his was his embrace of computer technology late in life. He loved to study history and military strategy, and new developments in science.

He was devoted to the Montana Grizzlies and the Flathead Braves. He rooted for the Grizzlies for decades with his friends, Huz Jensen and the late Howard Hurst.

His survivors include his wife, Delores, of 59 years; his children, Linda Swanberg and her husband, Gregg, of Missoula, Louise Swanberg and husband, Tom Colyer, of Kalispell, son, Chris Swanberg of Sacramento, Calif., Shelley Ferkovich and her husband, Jim, of Woodland, Calif., and Jane Marie Law and her husband, Adam, of Ithaca, N.Y.; nine grandchildren, Adam and Christy Colyer of Kalispell, Katie and Kelley Swanberg of Sacramento, Brian Ferkovich and Melissa Ferkovich Blissette of Davis, Calif., and Sam, Tamar, and Hannah Law of Ithaca, N.Y. He had the blessing of one great-granddaughter, Meille Blissette of Davis, Calif., born just a few weeks before his death. He also had numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and close friends.

Preceding him in death were his parents, Alfred and Clara Swanberg; his brothers, Randall, Steve and Bill Swanberg; and sister, Nancy Boland.

His two orange cats Felix and Oscar (the latter his constant companion in his final days) will also miss him.

In his final weeks, he often commented that he had lived a rare and blessed life; a lifelong partner in his wife Delores, a vibrant and active family he cherished, a beautiful place to live and reflect, hobbies that fascinated and challenged him,

a career which brought him great intellectual and personal satisfaction, a community he had served and loved, retirement years that gave him the time to think, read and write, and pets he could cuddle and care for. He referred to his lake home where he spent his final years as his Shangri-La.

"We wish him well in the Promised Land. Perhaps he is teaching the folks there how to play chess, or telling them the plots of his latest novel." He is sorely missed by those he left behind.

Services will be held Tuesday, May 20, at 11 a.m. at the C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery. A catered reception will follow the services.

Memorials can be sent to either Kalispell Hospice, the Kalispell Regional Medical Center Foundation in the name of Dr. A.V. Swanberg directed to the Patient Care Fund at 310 Sunnyview Lane, Kalispell or to the Central School Museum in Kalispell.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson Mortuary and Crematory.

William John 'Bill' Swanson, 57

William John "Bill" Swanson, 57, died Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2003, at his Kalispell residence of natural causes.

He had been the finance director for Flathead County and then worked for the Flathead County Parks Department for 15 years until his retirement.

Survivors include his mother, Elsa Swanson, of Anaconda.

Memorial services will be conducted in Kalispell at a later date.

Cremation arrangements were under the care of the KT Riddle Funeral Homes in Anaconda.

Dennis Duane Swift, 73

Dennis Duane Swift, 73, passed away on April 14, 2003, at Brendan House in Kalispell.

Dennis was born on March 14, 1930, in Hayward, Wis., to Ernest and Rose Swift. He moved to Madison, Wis., where he attended schools and graduated from high school.

He married Evelyn Fehr on Oct. 14, 1956, in Bloomer, Wis.

Dennis graduated from the University of Montana in Missoula, where he earned his degree in forestry. Dennis worked as a smoke jumper for a while, then spent most of the rest of his career working as a forester for private industry. His last job was with Stoltze Land and Lumber Company in Columbia Falls.

Dennis served in the U.S. Army. He was a member of the American Foresters, and past member of the Lions Club. He

loved hunting, fishing and working with wood.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and his stepmother, Goldie Swift.

He is survived by his wife, Evelyn of Bigfork; two sons, David Swift of Seattle, and Cameron Swift of Bigfork; one daughter, Sarah Lefebvre of Fairbanks, Alaska; six grandchildren; one sister, Helen Swanson of Rhinelander, Wis.; and one stepsister, Thelma Stassi of Baraboo, Wis.

Visitation will be from 4 to 8 p.m. on today at Bigfork Funeral Home. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. on Saturday at Bethany Lutheran Church in Bigfork, with the Rev. Jack Shannon officiating. Burial will follow at Bethany Lutheran Cemetery.

Bigfork Funeral Home is caring for the family.

John W. 'Jack' Swiger, 72

John W. "Jack" Swiger, 72, of Troy, died Dec. 30, 2003, at St. John's Lutheran Hospital in Libby.

He was employed by the U.S. Forest Service as an engineer until his retirement in 1993.

Survivors include his son, Dean Swiger of Troy; and

daughters, Debbie Wallace of Kalispell; Connie Gibbons of Eureka, and Sandy Swiger of High Rolls, N.M.

A service will be at 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10, at the Kootenai Senior Citizens Center in Troy.

Arrangements are by Nelson & Vial Funeral Home.